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**Subject:** Fwd: Harvey Response 1700 Update 09062017  
**Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2017 8:29:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [09062017 1700 Update FINAL.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Buchholz, Ken" <[Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov)>  
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**Subject:** Harvey Response 1700 Update 09062017

JUST FYI –

NO REPLY NEEDED.

Reminder to Divisional RICT representatives, please share with those in your Division that are interested or have a need to know.

Thanks

Ken

p.s. There is a picture of Heath Smith, OSC (from our St. Louis field office) on the last page.



## Hurricane Harvey 2017 9/6/2017 – 1700 CDT Update

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott plans to travel to Corpus Christi, Houston, Victoria, Fort Bend County and Beaumont Thursday-Saturday. EPA Acting RA Sam Coleman has been invited and will accompany the Governor on Thursday and Friday, and Senior Advisor Kell Kelly will accompany him on Saturday.
- EPA Senior Advisors to the Administrator completed tours areas impacted by the storm. Kell Kelly will join the JFO in Austin on Thursday as EPA's Senior Federal Official.
- EPA continues drinking water and waste water system assessments, hazard evaluations, and container recovery operations, working closely with state and local partners.
- EPA continues to monitor air quality in neighborhoods surrounding the Valero Houston Refinery utilizing the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA). EPA's air monitoring performed onsite and around the facility does not indicate levels of concern for the community. EPA remains diligent in monitoring air quality in the area.
- EPA has begun deploying community liaisons to serve in county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to assist with sharing information on post-flood hazards.
- EPA is coordinating with US Coast Guard (USCG) on a 2500-gallon fuel oil spill at the Houston Magellan facility. Cleanup of product outside of containment was completed on September 5, 2017. Product outside of the containment area is currently being collected.
- EPA assisted TCEQ by conducting site inspections at two State Superfund Sites.
- EPA remedial manager is onsite and overseeing the assessment at San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site. Crews continue to surveying portions of the cap that are submerged. Some areas that rock been displaced and liner is exposed. The potential responsible party has mobilized heavy equipment and is placing rock on different places on the armored cap to repair the defensive surface. The liner is in place and functional so we don't have any indication that the underlying waste materials have been exposed. If we find a breach in the exposed liner, we direct the responsible party to collect samples to determine if any materials have been released.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Plans to deploy Community Liaisons to EOCs in the impacted counties are ongoing. Informational materials are currently being aligned with FEMA guidelines and prepared for distribution. In response to reports of persons impersonating federal officials, Liaisons and other field personnel are being advised to present in EPA attire with official identification.

EPA issued a statement on the assessment of the Valero Houston Refinery that took place on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. It was confirmed that a tank at the facility did have a leak which occurred on August 26, 2017, from the Hurricane Harvey storm and flooding. EPA also confirmed Valero had taken action to respond to and repair the leak. With information gathered, it was not confirmed that this leak was the source of the release that led to complaints in the Manchester neighborhood area. EPA's air monitoring performed onsite and around the facility does not indicate levels of concern for the community. EPA remains diligent in monitoring air quality in the area.

## DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

## AIR MONITORING

The EPA mobile air monitoring TAGA bus conducted air monitoring in the Houston area today near the Valero Refinery. The TAGA detected benzene levels below the TCEQ Short Term Effects Screening Level (ESL), the threshold selected by the Houston Health Department as a level of concern. EPA toxicologists agree with the use of the short term ESL. The TAGA will continue assessing locations around the Houston Ship Channel and the Manchester area in southeast Houston, Texas.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	Opened		Closed	
	9/5/2017	Cumulative	9/5/2017	Cumulative
Corpus Christi Branch	4	31	7	65
Houston Branch	32	159	7	22
NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Spills/Discharges				
Status	Opened		Closed	
	9/5/2017	Cumulative	9/5/2017	Cumulative
Corpus Christi Branch	32	383	26	58
Houston Branch	17	54	6	12
NRC Reports	2	29	0	15
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

## FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

### CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

Rapid Response teams continued to contact vessel owners, salvage operators, and harbors masters to work on vessel assessment, remediation, and recovery.

The Signet Enterprise vessel, located at Aransas Pass, is being addressed by the Responsible Party with EPA oversight. 10,000 gallons of petroleum was removed September 5, 2017, 45,000 gallons of petroleum has been removed overall.

The Orphan Recovery Team recovered 5 cylinders, including a 200-gallon propane tank, on September 5, 2017.

DATE	CONTAINERS			Cylinders	TOTALS	
	Drums [55gal]	Small Containers [< 55gal]	Large Containers [> 55gal]		Total Items Collected Today	Total Items Collected Project to Date
9/1/2017	26	22	1	1	49	49
9/2/2017	6	10	1		17	66
9/3/2017	7			3	7	73
9/4/2017	10		3	1	13	86
9/5/2017				5	5	91

### HOUSTON BRANCH:

The Water Infrastructure Group completed 22 assessments in Harris, Austin and Chambers counties. Of those, one system was not operational.

Hazard Evaluation teams identified an approximately 1,000-gallon tank located in Winnie, Texas. A second orphaned 55-gallon, closed top, poly drum was identified at a separate location, but was inaccessible due to high water. The sites have been logged for future response action.

### PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

The Command Post has been established. Two EPA Trailers and the Gulf Strike Team (GST) Command Trailer are on-site.

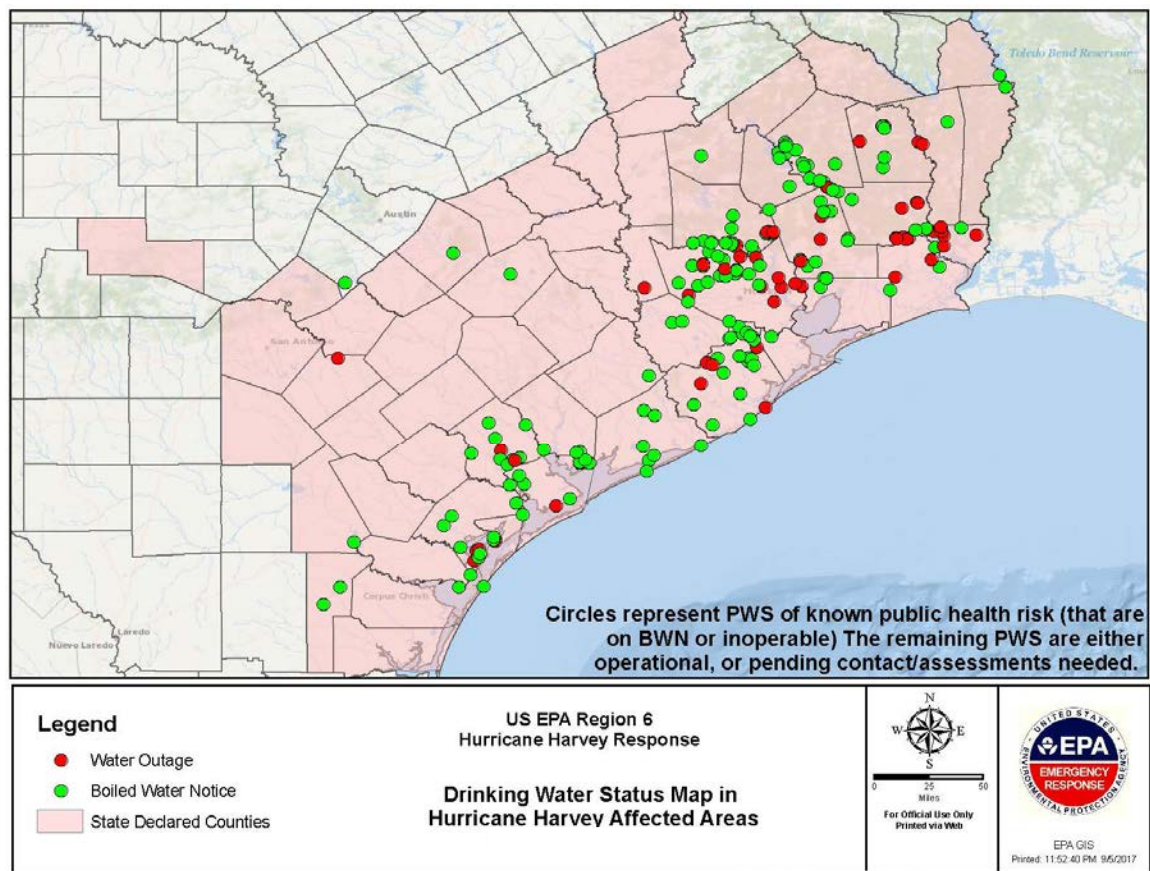
The Water Infrastructure Group has assigned a team to assist the City of Beaumont Drinking Water Services. The City of Beaumont has restored power to the plant. Groundwater wells remain offline. Pumps providing water to the plant from the Neuces River are currently operational.

An EPA On-scene Coordinator and representative of the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) responded to a spill of oil observed in the vicinity of an abandoned well. Sorbent booms were deployed and the TGLO identified and contacted the responsible party and a contractor has mobilized to conduct clean-up activities.

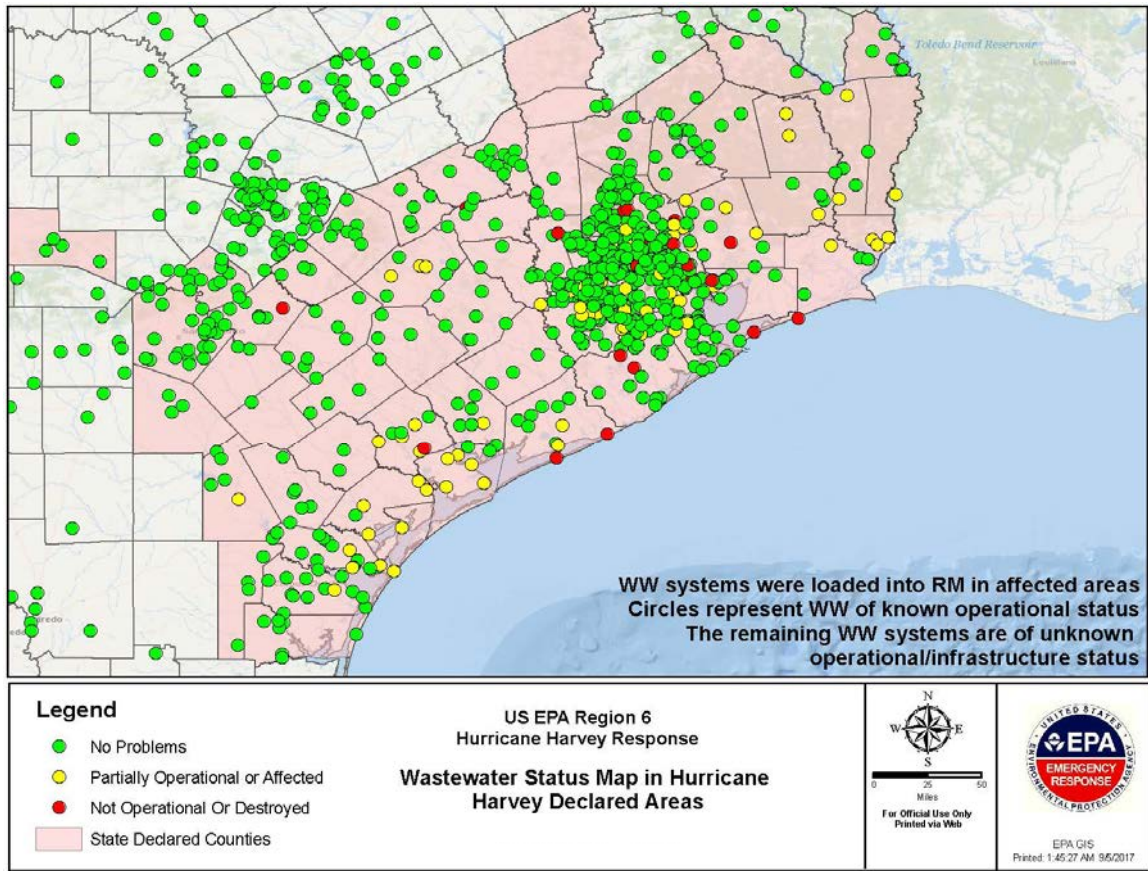
## DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. There are 10 members at the TCEQ Austin phone bank including one assisting with data flow and technical regulatory questions. In addition, drinking water and wastewater assessment teams are currently established in Houston, with additional members arriving this week. Current Houston response activities consist of 14 EPA personnel conducting drinking water and wastewater assessments in the Harris County area.

Drinking Water and Waste Water Assessments (September 5, 2017)		
Assessment Types	Daily Assessments	Total Assessments
On-Site DW Assessments	15	102
On-Site WW Assessments	14	80
Phone DW Assessments	438	4402
Phone WW Assessments	112	2803

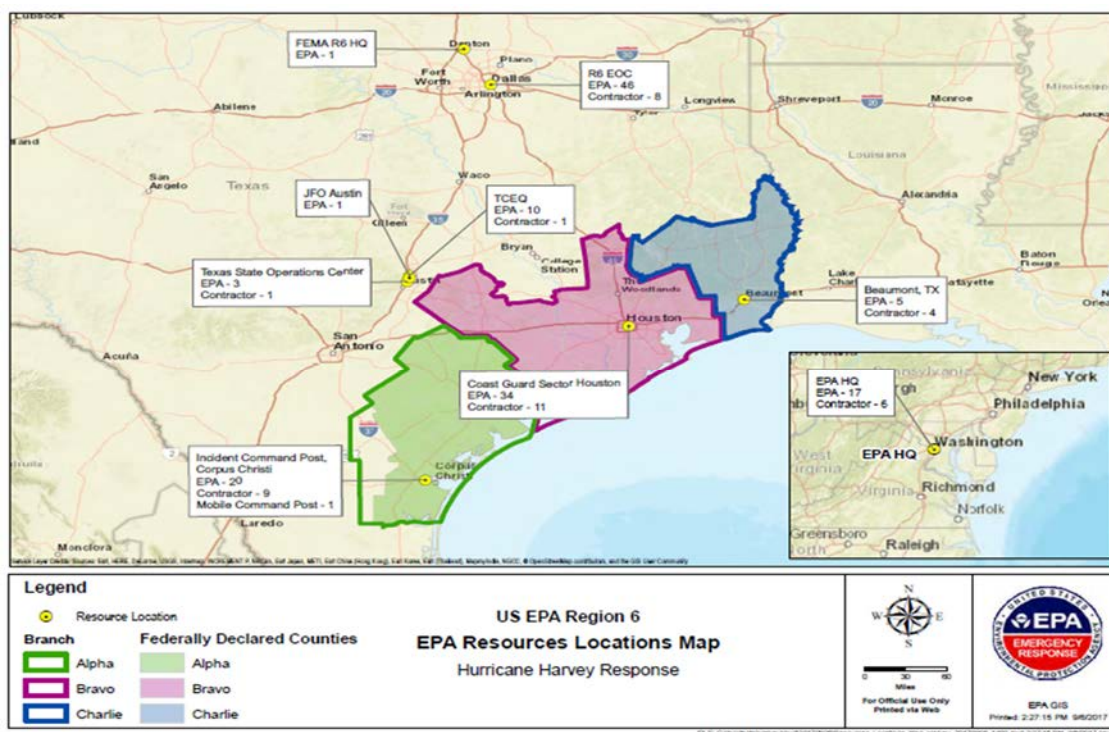






## EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA Dallas, TX	FEMA Denton, TX	Texas JFO Austin, TX	Texas SOC Austin, TX	TCEQ Austin, TX	Houston, TX	Corpus Christi, TX	Beaumont, TX	HQ EOC, Wash, DC	TOTAL
EPA	46	1	1	3	10	32	20	5	17	135
START	8			1	1	12	6	4		32
ERRS						7	8			15
Other Contractors	1								6	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	55	1	1	4	11	51	34	9	23	189



## FUNDING

SitRep							
September 6, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours							
	Funding Sources	Funding Ceiling	Funding Ceiling Less Indirect	Spent to Date	Remaining Balance	Daily Burn Rate	Days Remaining
	Non Mission Assignment	N/A		\$64,200.00	\$0.00		
	MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-01	\$275,000.00	\$242,741.00	\$19,120.00	\$223,621.00	\$2,848.00	78.52
	MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	\$8,592,000.00	\$7,584,077.00	\$3,699,109.86	\$3,884,967.14	\$294,639.98	13.19
	Totals:	\$8,867,000.00	\$7,826,818.00	\$3,782,429.86	\$4,108,588.14		
** Indirect costs represent the money the Cincinnati Shared Service Center takes off the top to manage the Mission Assignments							

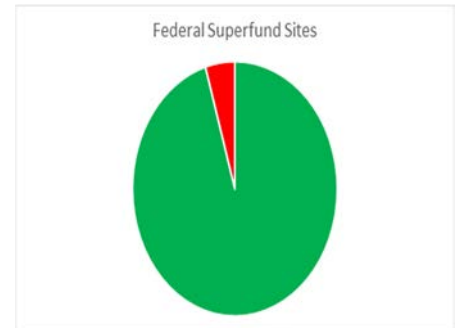
## REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

- EPA is reaching out to the states to see if there is agreement about extending the current multi-state fuel waiver beyond September 15th. EPA is in the process of evaluating the responses and no final decision has been made yet.
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.
- EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.

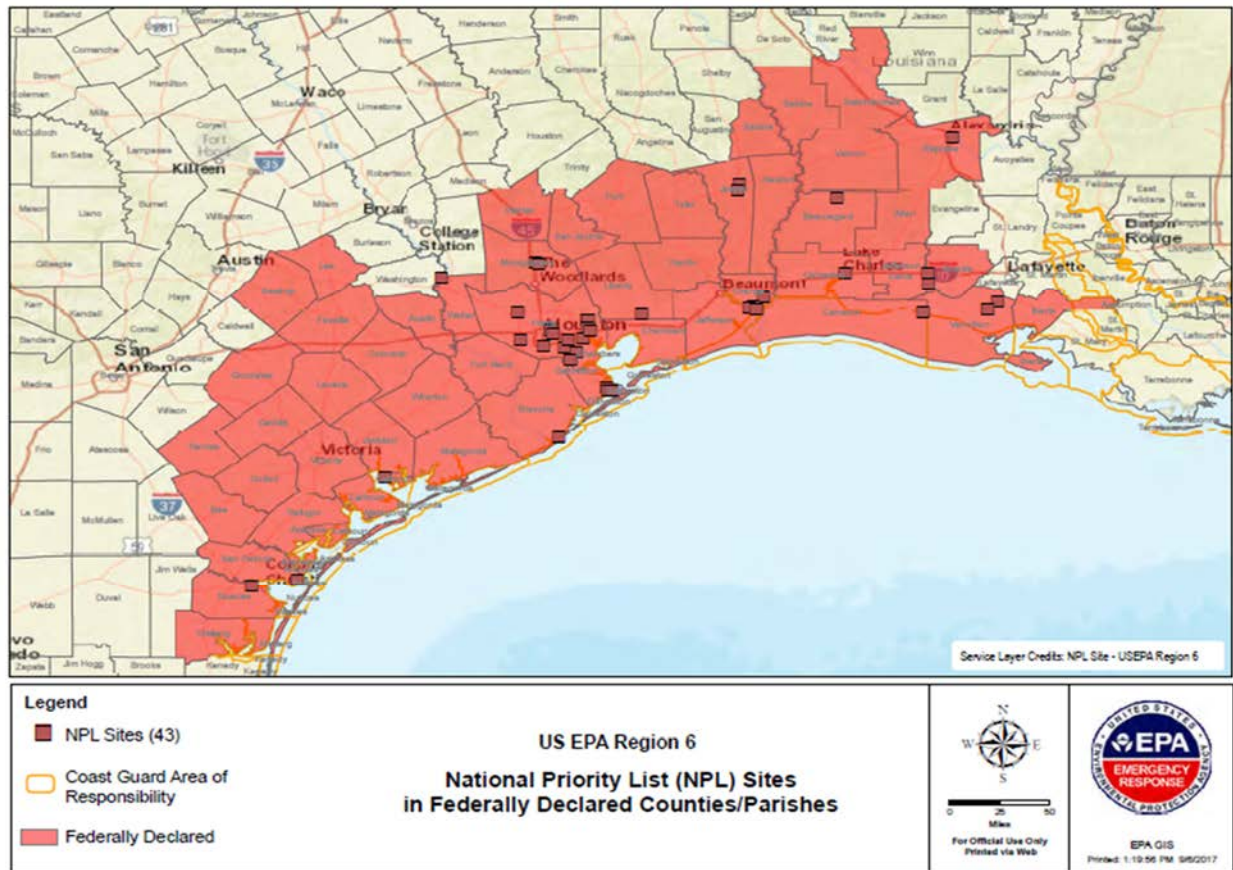
- The Internal Revenue Service expanded the red dye fuel waiver to cover the entire state of Texas, not just the 110 counties as before.

## **FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES**

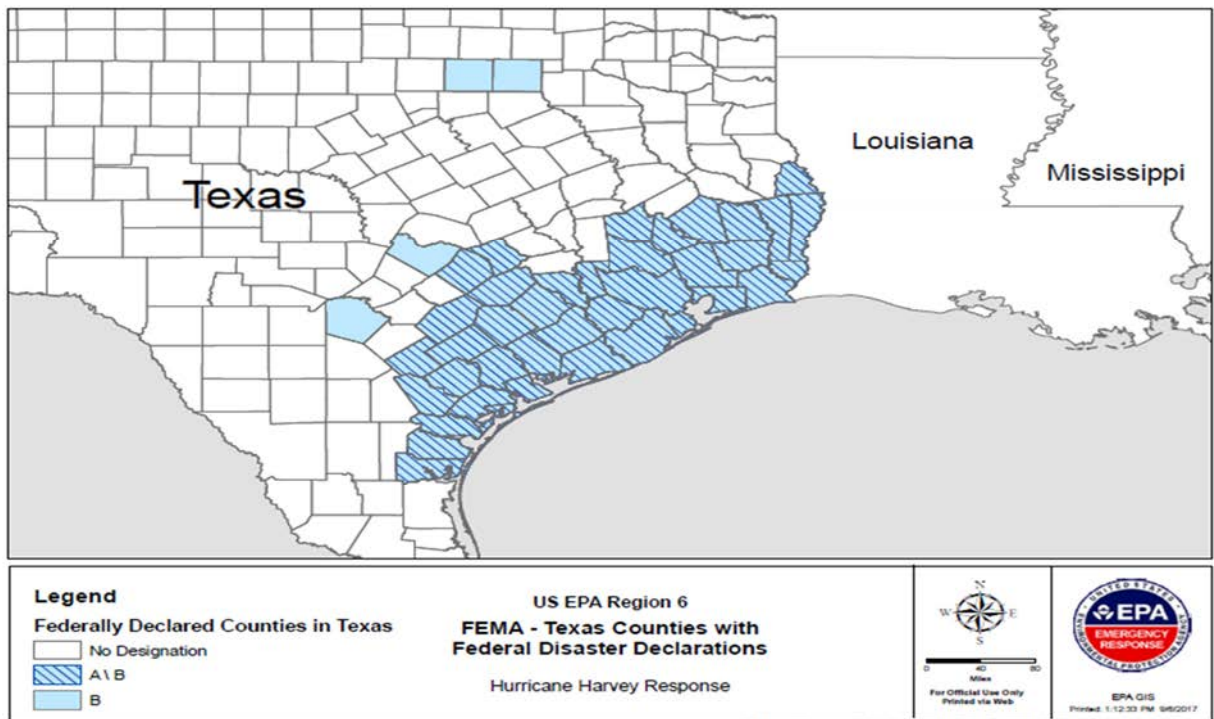
- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been assessed.
- 41 sites have been cleared.
- EPA is preparing to sample all 33 NPL sites in Texas to confirm no releases.
- Two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) required additional follow-up and the following was noted:
  - San Jacinto: The Potential Responsible Parties (PRP) began initial repair activities on September 4, 2017. The armor cap had eroded and repairs to the cap was initiated. An area of the southern berm where the outside part of the berm had washed out was repaired with stabilized sand. The cover over the waste material was intact and no waste was exposed. A survey and manual probing of the underwater areas will begin today, September 6, 2017. EPA is activating its Dive Team to oversee PRP activities at the site and to confirm any anomalies.
  - US Oil: On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the PRP Group pumped storm water from treatment facilities at the site and worked to make sure that enough freeboard was available for future rain events. An overflow from the facility was observed and determined to be local. No sheen or odor was found. The PRP Group has identified the problem that caused the overflow and developed a plan to fix it.







## FEMA – TEXAS COUNTIES WITH DISASTER DECLARATIONS



## 9/5/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

### PHOTOS

Mobile Command Center at Port Arthur Branch



Morning Op Briefing in Port Arthur



US EPA conducting site assessments

